

# STATE OF NEW YORK

7708--B

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

May 1, 2025

Introduced by Sen. FERNANDEZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the veterans' services law, in relation to the establishing a veterans' bill of rights

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The veterans' services law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 29-f to read as follows:

3 § 29-f. Veterans' bill of rights. 1. The department shall establish,  
4 print, publish and distribute a veterans' bill of rights. Such bill of  
5 rights shall include the following or substantially similar text  
6 describing the existing rights of veterans under current law:

7 "VETERANS' BILL OF RIGHTS

8 You as a veteran have a right:

9 1. To apply for veterans' benefits for which you may be eligible;

10 2. To receive assistance from your local state veterans' service agen-  
11 cy and all offices of the New York state department of veterans'  
12 services;

13 3. To receive, upon request, an explanation of any services and bene-  
14 fits available under federal and New York state laws, rules and regu-  
15 lations;

16 4. To receive written notice and an explanation of the approval or  
17 denial of your application for benefits available through the New York  
18 state department of veterans' services;

19 5. To be treated with dignity and respect;

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 6. To appeal, subject to applicable law, an adverse determination or  
2 denial of your application for services or benefits available through  
3 the New York state department of veterans' services;

4 7. To expect confidentiality to the extent provided by law;

5 8. To receive fair and equal treatment without regard to sex, race,  
6 religion, disability, ethnicity, gender identity or national origin; and

7 9. To receive, upon request, information relating to assistance  
8 provided to veterans in the state of New York including but not limited  
9 to: legal services; educational, employment, or housing opportunities;  
10 assistance with discharge upgrades and/or character of service determi-  
11 nations; tax benefits, including real property and personal taxes; and  
12 the veterans notation on New York state driver's license or non-driver  
13 identification cards."

14 2. The department shall conspicuously post the veterans' bill of  
15 rights on the department's website and shall make the veterans' bill of  
16 rights available to county and city veterans' service agencies.

17 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
18 have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment,  
19 and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation  
20 of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and  
21 completed on or before such effective date.